



## Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 30 October 2007

Current Nationwide



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- *The International Herald Tribune* reports that, according to a Government Accountability Office report, more than a year after the U.S. Congress told the Energy Department to harden U.S. nuclear bomb factories and laboratories against terrorist raids, 5 of the 11 sites are certain to miss their deadlines. (See items [6](#))
- *Computerworld* reports that hackers amped up attacks using malicious PDF files that exploit a broad flaw in Windows. The attacks, which began Tuesday, exploit bugs in the Windows versions of Adobe Systems Inc.'s Reader and Acrobat software; Adobe patched the newest editions of those programs Monday, but has not yet updated older variants. (See item [31](#))

### **DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Fast Jump**

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## **Energy Sector**

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: **Physical: ELEVATED, Cyber: ELEVATED**

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *October 29, Reuters* – (International) **Noel will not threaten US oil fields.** The current weather models do not indicate that Tropical Storm Noel will threaten the U.S. oil and gas production facilities in the northern Gulf of Mexico. The U.S. National Hurricane Center forecast Noel would weaken into a tropical depression as it moves north across Haiti over the next 12 hours. Noel should re-strengthen into a tropical storm with winds of 39 to 73 mph as it moves north-northwest across the warm waters of the Atlantic before marching across the Bahamas Tuesday and Wednesday. The storm could become a hurricane by the

time it reaches the coast of Cuba, AccuWeather noted, and may affect the central and northern Bahamas Wednesday and Thursday before steering toward the northeast away from Florida.

Source:

[http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20071029/us\\_nm/weather\\_storm\\_position\\_dc;\\_ylt=Ap03EaFljgHPeYGE3WIRIncWIr0F](http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20071029/us_nm/weather_storm_position_dc;_ylt=Ap03EaFljgHPeYGE3WIRIncWIr0F)

2. *October 29, Bloomberg* – (International) **Crude oil rises to record above \$93 as Mexico idles production.** Crude oil climbed above \$93 a barrel for the first time, extending this month's gain to 16 percent, after Mexico shut a fifth of its production and the dollar fell to a record low. State-owned Petroleos Mexicanos, the third-largest supplier of crude to the U.S., halted about 600,000 barrels a day of output as a storm in the Gulf of Mexico closed platforms, said a spokesman in Mexico City. Crude has rallied 52 percent this year as resilient demand has stretched global supplies, while threats to Middle Eastern output from political tensions have attracted speculative buyers. The flaring of disputes between Turkey and Iraq over Kurdish militants, as well as over Iran's nuclear program, prompted price records last week.

Source:

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601207&sid=ap5Ka7dWsGs8&refer=energy>

3. *October 26, The Phoenix Business Journal* – (Southwest) **Pipeline raises energy concerns.** Local officials are concerned after the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission approved a pipeline modification that makes way for foreign natural gas to flow from Mexico into Arizona and California. The pipeline will carry liquefied natural gas, known as LNG, from Southeast and East Asia, the Middle East, Russia and other regions. The line will originate at a plant 50 miles south of Tijuana in Baja California, Mexico, and link to a major pipeline exchange in Ehrenberg, Arizona, sending natural gas to California and Arizona. Environmental groups claim foreign natural gas is not regulated by the same standards as those in the U.S. and could lead to increased air pollution. Many in the industry call it "hot gas" because it generally contains more hydrocarbons and emits more carbon into the atmosphere.

Source:

[http://www.bizjournals.com/phoenix/stories/2007/10/29/story6.html?ana=from\\_rss](http://www.bizjournals.com/phoenix/stories/2007/10/29/story6.html?ana=from_rss)

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## **Chemical Industry Sector**

4. *October 29, The Associated Press* – (Minnesota) **Train derailment causes partial evacuation in Clara City.** A train derailment has caused the partial evacuation of the west-central Minnesota town of Clara City. According to a Chippewa County sheriff's dispatcher a train passing through Clara City struck a parked train, causing a derailment and a leak of hydrochloric acid. No one was hurt, but because of a cloud of hydrochloric acid from one tanker car, the south and west part of Clara City has been evacuated, local Highways 23 and 7 have been closed and traffic is being detoured.

Source: <http://www.thedickinsonpress.com/ap/index.cfm?page=view&id=D8SIRQQ00>

5. *October 28, The Associated Press* – (Florida) **Grenade emits unknown chemical.** Authorities say a grenade that washed ashore near Palm Beach released an unknown chemical while a bomb technician rendered it safe today. Several fire rescue and police personnel were transported to a hospital with respiratory symptoms, but no one was hospitalized and no civilians were exposed. Several other first responders were treated at the scene. Samples of the substance were collected and field testing indicated that the respiratory irritant was most likely teargas. Additional testing will be conducted. Source: <http://www1.wsvn.com/news/articles/local/MI66208/>

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## **Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector**

6. *October 29, The International Herald Tribune* – (National) **U.S. Energy Department lags in meeting deadlines for securing nuclear sites.** More than a year after the U.S. Congress told the Energy Department to harden U.S. nuclear bomb factories and laboratories against terrorist raids, 5 of the 11 sites are certain to miss their deadlines, some by many years, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) has found. The Energy Department has put off security improvements at some sites that store plutonium because it plans to consolidate the material at central locations, but the GAO said in a Senate briefing that that project is also likely to lag. One site that will miss its deadline by years is the Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Tennessee, which holds a large stock of weapons-usable uranium. The laboratory plans to dilute the uranium, but that will take until 2015, the auditors found. The National Nuclear Security Administration, which is responsible for weapons security, operates two other sites that will miss their deadlines. Source: [http://www.ihf.com/articles/2007/10/29/america/security.php?WT.mc\\_id=rssfrontpage](http://www.ihf.com/articles/2007/10/29/america/security.php?WT.mc_id=rssfrontpage)
7. *October 27, The Houston Chronicle* – (Texas) **At the heart of new nuclear weapons.** During the Cold War arms race, the Pantex Plant in the Texas panhandle is where workers put together nuclear warheads for decades, competing with the Soviets who were doing the same. But once the Iron Curtain fell, the plant became the primary atomic bomb disassembly site. In the next few weeks, a unit of the Department of Energy is set to release a plan outlining the future of the nation's arsenal, envisioned to consist of 1,700 to 2,200 newly designed warheads. There is little question they, like their predecessors, will be assembled at Pantex. Pantex also is one of five sites under consideration for a new "consolidated plutonium center" to process and build the lethal cores of nuclear warheads. Source: <http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/metropolitan/5251489.html>
8. *October 27, The News Courier* – (Alabama) **Rogers Group says blasting will not damage nuclear plant.** The company seeking a permit to relocate its rock quarry just south of Athens says 2.76 million pounds of explosives would be necessary for any damage at the Browns Ferry Nuclear Power Plant. They say the largest blast at the new site would be 588 pounds of the same explosive. Officials with Rogers Group Inc. said they obtained the blasting figures from research done by a national blasting expert. "The Tennessee Valley Authority, which operates the Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant, is fully

aware of the proposed relocation and has voiced no concerns to Rogers Group,” rock quarry officials said in prepared statement. “Another quarry in the Trinity area has operated within the same distance of the nuclear plant with no apparent safety threat.” A retired TVA engineer who said he worked 30 years at Browns Ferry, told Limestone County commissioners earlier this month that he feared blasting could cause breakers to trip at the plant and shut it down. However, Rogers Group said before any blasting is conducted, studies are conducted by licensed third-party inspectors.

Source: [http://www.eneascourier.com/local/local\\_story\\_300195912.html](http://www.eneascourier.com/local/local_story_300195912.html)

9. *October 27, The Baltimore Sun* – (National) **Generating more power: Nuclear plants might be run past their allowed maximum.** Faced with the competing threats of global warming and a looming energy shortfall, federal regulators are contemplating whether another 20 years of service can be squeezed out of the nation’s aging nuclear power plants without compromising safety. Many say they believe that the 104 nuclear reactors operating in the U.S. will be forced to retire faster than industry can replace them, unless regulators act to extend their lives to 80 years from the current 60-year maximum. Though it will be years before any licenses expire, the debate has urgency because utilities are making decisions that will affect how many nuclear plants will be built during the next 20 years. Nuclear plants produce 20 percent of the nation’s energy supply but account for more than 70 percent of the electricity from all sources classified as emissions-free.

Source: <http://www.baltimoresun.com/business/bal-te.bz.nuclear27oct27,0,3892047.story>

10. *October 26, Triangle Business Journal* – (North Carolina) **Cars on train carrying nuclear waste derail at Shearon Harris.** Rail cars on a train carrying spent nuclear fuel derailed at the Shearon Harris nuclear power plant in western Wake County, Progress Energy said Friday. The incident occurred on the plant’s property, the Raleigh utility said. Progress can not offer details about the specific time or place of the derailling because of federal regulations, a spokesperson said. The cars that came off the tracks were a caboose and a flatbed that did not contain any nuclear waste and serves as a buffer between cars, Progress said. The entire train remained upright. The rail car that carried the waste never left the tracks. When transported by rail, spent waste is placed in concrete-reinforced containers that weigh between 75 and 125 tons, according to the Nuclear Energy Institute trade group.

Source: <http://www.bizjournals.com/triangle/stories/2007/10/22/daily43.html>

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## **Defense Industrial Base Sector**

11. *October 29, Defense News* – (National) **JLTV hopefuls show prototypes to U.S. Army.** U.S. Army engineers and Joint Light Tactical Vehicle (JLTV) officials looked over prototypes at an Army acquisition facility in Warren, Michigan the week of October 15, as part of an attempt to speed up acquisition of a nimbler yet better-protected utility vehicle. Officially, the JLTV will not enter production until 2012, but the Army’s Tank-Automotive and Armaments Command (TACOM) and Tank Automotive Research Development and Engineering Center (TARDEC) have launched an initiative aimed at speeding up the production process. The Army hopes to accelerate JLTV development.

Source: <http://www.defensenews.com/story.php?F=3130400&C=landwar>

12. *October 27, PRNewswire* – (National) **Lockheed Martin's THAAD Weapon System conducts successful exo-atmospheric interceptor test.** Lockheed Martin and the U.S. Missile Defense Agency (MDA) conducted a successful exo-atmospheric test of the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) Weapon System at the Pacific Missile Range Facility (PMRF) on Kauai, HI. The flight test demonstrated the system's ability to detect, track and intercept an incoming unitary target above the Earth's atmosphere. Preliminary data indicates the THAAD flight test successfully met all test objectives including demonstrating the successful integration of the radar, launcher, THAAD Fire Control and Communication (TFCC) and interceptor; exo- atmospheric intercept of a unitary target; and demonstrating the Interceptor's endgame capability in a highly stressing intercept scenario.

Source: <http://www.prnewswire.com/cgi-bin/stories.pl?ACCT=104&STORY=/www/story/10-27-2007/0004691528&EDATE=>

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## **Banking and Finance Sector**

13. *October 29, NY Journal News* – (New York) **Lower Hudson Valley officials alerted to tax rebate scam.** Lower Hudson Valley tax officials are on the alert for an e-mail scam involving the New York State's School Tax Relief Program (STAR), although no local cases have been reported. The scam involves an e-mail mentioning the STAR rebate that asks for the resident's date of birth, Social Security number and credit card number. Senior citizens are typically more susceptible to scams, said an Orangetown assessor, but in the case of the STAR rebate, seniors who have applied for the enhanced program, based on age and income, had their checks mailed right away instead of having to apply.

Source:

<http://www.nyjournalnews.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20071029/NEWS03/710290370>

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## **Transportation Sector**

14. *October 28, The Associated Press* – (Texas) **Flight to Dallas diverted after passenger attempts to leave through emergency door.** An American Airlines flight from Orlando, Florida, to Dallas-Fort Worth, Texas was diverted to Houston on Saturday night after a passenger tried to open an emergency door. The woman was not successful in opening the door and was arrested upon landing. None of the 176 passengers and six crew members was injured during the incident.

Source: <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,305691,00.html>

15. *October 28, KNTV-TV, San Francisco Bay Area, California* – (California) **I-580 reopens following bomb scare.** The California Department of Transportation crews working on westbound Interstate Highway 580 in Livermore located a blue metal pipe wrapped in

tape leaking a silver substance. The pipe, which was found on Friday around noon, prompted bomb squad officials in hazardous suits to investigate the item while police shut down all eastbound and westbound lanes of Highway 580 in the area, according to a California Highway Patrol officer. The pipe was cleared from the scene and detonated away from the roadway by bomb squad officials, said the same source.

Source: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/21493493/>

16. *October 27, The Associated Press* – (New York) **Homeland Security strikes deal with New York on driver's licenses.** The Bush administration and New York cut a deal Saturday to create a new generation of super-secure driver's licenses for U.S. citizens and to also develop a type of license available to undocumented immigrants. Under the agreement, New York will produce an "enhanced driver's license" intended for people who soon will need to meet ID requirements, even for a short drive to Canada. New York has between 500,000 and 1 million undocumented immigrants, many of whom are driving without licenses and car insurance or with fake driver's licenses, according to New York's governor.

Source: [http://www.newsday.com/news/local/wire/newyork/ny-bc-ny--immigrantdrivers1027oct27\\_0\\_674004.print.story](http://www.newsday.com/news/local/wire/newyork/ny-bc-ny--immigrantdrivers1027oct27_0_674004.print.story)

17. *October 26, The Associated Press* – (Texas) **Dallas police bomb squad investigates package on bus.** Dallas police found nothing aboard a bus evacuated Friday afternoon, following a report of a suspicious package. Authorities say the driver rang a silent alarm and evacuated the passengers after a man told him that he had placed an explosive device inside the bus.

Source: <http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/ap/tx/5249548.html>

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## **Postal and Shipping Sector**

18. *October 28, KGTV San Diego* – (California) **Five post offices to remain closed.** Officials announced that all but five San Diego, California district post offices will be open on October 29. The closed post offices are in Tecate, Dulzura, Palomar Mountain, Running Springs, and Green Valley Lake.

Source: <http://www.10news.com/wildfires2007/14443681/detail.html>

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## **Agriculture and Food Sector**

19. *October 29, The Associated Press* – (National) **Kroger salmon dip recalled after Georgia inspectors find bacteria** Georgia inspectors have found deadly *Listeria monocytogenes* bacteria in a 7.5 ounce package of Kroger Smoked Salmon Dip, prompting a recall of the product. The package that contained the bacteria, which can cause listeriosis, was marked "Use By 04 Nov. 2007A LN3" and was distributed to most Kroger stores in Georgia, Ohio, Indiana, North Carolina and South Carolina, said a Kroger spokeswoman. Units also went to stores in parts of Mississippi, Arkansas and Tennessee.

Source: <http://www.fox19.com/Global/story.asp?S=7280067&nav=0zHF>

20. *October 29, News-Medical.net* – (National; International) **Canadian beef the culprit in E. coli outbreaks in U.S. and Canada.** The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) has issued a warning to the public that various, potentially E. coli-contaminated beef products have now been recalled. The affected products were found as result of a CFIA investigation and traceback conducted on contaminated beef from the now defunct Canadian meatpacker Ranchers Beef, in Balzac, Alberta. The CFIA believes the meat plant was the “likely source” of beef that caused an outbreak of food-borne illnesses in the United States and Canada, which resulted in almost 100 cases of illness. The U.S. Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) says a comparison of “DNA fingerprints” of beef samples pointed to the Ranchers Beef company. The FSIS removed Ranchers Beef’s approval as an importer on October 20. The meatpacker was linked to the contaminated products which prompted the Topps Meat expanded recall on September 29.

Source: <http://www.news-medical.net/?id=31840>

21. *October 29, USAgNet* – (California) **USDA provides more food assistance to Southern California.** The acting Agriculture Secretary is prepared to approve a Disaster Food Stamp Program (DSFP) for Riverside County, in addition to the DFSP approved Thursday for San Diego County. Both programs will run through November 20. On another front, USDA’s Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is dispatching Damage Survey Assessment (DSA) teams to the burn areas to determine damage to natural resources, including impairments to watersheds as a result of the fires. The surveys will begin after safety officials give NRCS permission to enter those areas. DSAs in Los Angeles and Ventura County are expected to begin at the end of next week. Other county DSAs will begin in approximately 10-14 days. USDA will not begin crop loss assessments until all human needs are met and the area is determined to be safe.

Source: <http://www.wisconsinagconnection.com/story-national.php?Id=2559&yr=2007>

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## **Water Sector**

Nothing to report.

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## **Public Health and Healthcare Sector**

22. *October 28, The Associated Press* – (National) **Schumer calls for nationwide staph reporting.** A New York Senator is calling for a nationwide reporting system for the antibiotic-resistant strain of staph known as MRSA. He said he is working on legislation to strengthen surveillance and data collection of infections and to promote research into the overuse of antibiotics, which can lead to the emergence of drug-resistant bacteria. He also said he would introduce legislation to provide incentives to researchers to help find new treatments for MRSA and other so-called “superbugs.”

Source: <http://www.newsday.com/news/local/wire/newyork/ny-bc-ny-->

[staphinfections1028oct28,0,2243395.story](http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/10/28/AR2007102800541.html)

23. *October 28, The Washington Post* – (National) **Large percentage of cancer patients not getting flu and pneumonia vaccine.** A new study by the American Society for Therapeutic Radiology and Oncology in Los Angeles has found that more than 25 percent of cancer patients are not receiving flu and pneumonia vaccines. Cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy have weakened immune systems, making them more susceptible to the worst effects of influenza and pneumonia, says the research. According to a society news release, 25 percent of cancer patients over 50-years-old reported having never received the flu vaccine and 36 percent of patients over age 65 said they never received the pneumonia vaccine. Both vaccines are recommended in those age groups by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The study found that older cancer patients do not get vaccinated because they do not believe they need to, they are not aware of the vaccine guidelines, or their doctors did not recommend they get vaccinated.  
Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/10/28/AR2007102800541.html>

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## **Government Facilities Sector**

24. *October 28, The Associated Press* – (Missouri) **Northwest Missouri State campus called calm after shots fired.** Shots were fired on the evening of October 27 on the campus of Northwest Missouri State University. There were no injuries and a campus alert system was activated, which locked down the campus until about 6 a.m. the next morning. No arrests have been made, but officers are looking for two men they described as persons of interest.  
Source: <http://www.kansascity.com/115/story/337215.html>
25. *October 28, The Associated Press* – (New Jersey) **Senator pushes for quick action on school security.** A New Jersey state senator is promoting a bill that would, according to her, help detect potential violence before it becomes reality. Under the plan, each county school superintendent would employ a violence prevention specialist whose job would be to develop a school safety and violence prevention plan, with the help of teachers, school administrators, guidance counselors, child study teams, mental health providers, parents and students. “They would help to identify students at risk of violent behavior and provide the needed support to stop youths from acting out violently at school,” she said. No action is expected to be taken until the legislature will return to session after elections on November 6.  
Source: <http://www.newsday.com/news/local/wire/newjersey/ny-bc-nj--legislativeprevie1028oct28,0,1568457.story>
26. *October 26, The Sun Post News* – (California) **Camp Pendleton fire is 80-percent contained, base says.** The Horno fire broke out on October 23 and spread to cover 20,000 acres of the Camp Pendleton Marine Corps base by October 26. Approximately 800 military families were evacuated on October 24, but were able to return to their homes later in the week. As of the morning of October 26, the fire was 80% contained. For more

information, please visit: [www.pendleton.usmc.mil](http://www.pendleton.usmc.mil).

Source: <http://www.ocregister.com/news/fire-pendleton-reported-1910413-camp-morning>

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## **Emergency Services Sector**

27. *October 28, San Mateo County Times* – (California) **Specialized California disaster team undertakes first task.** A unique team of Bay Area disaster specialists was dispatched on its inaugural mission last week to San Diego County, where they provided medical support to people displaced from their homes by the firestorms that ravaged the region. The 43-member California Medical Assistance Team raced to Southern California on Tuesday with a police escort to assist local agencies in meeting the medical needs of thousands of residents forced into temporary shelters. It was the first deployment for Cal-MAT, which was established this year at the direction of the state's governor in response to Hurricane Katrina in 2005, when residents of New Orleans waited several days for help to arrive from the federal government. Beginning Wednesday, 11 Cal-MAT doctors treated patients, sent out "strike teams" to perform assessments of medical needs at local shelters and helped the American Red Cross set up a medical clinic at the Del Mar Fairgrounds, the horseracing venue that served as one of San Diego County's major evacuation centers. In each instance, Cal-MAT's role was to augment local services. "We go down to the locals and say, 'We're yours, where do you want us to go?'" said the disaster response manager for the state Emergency Medical Services Authority, which oversees Cal-MAT. "We do whatever they want us to do." Cal-MAT gives the state the ability to send doctors, nurses and emergency medical technicians within hours to help overwhelmed local authorities manage disasters such as earthquakes and fires.

Source: [http://www.emsresponder.com/web/online/Top-EMS-News/Specialized-California-Disaster-Team-Undertakes-First-Task/1\\$6448](http://www.emsresponder.com/web/online/Top-EMS-News/Specialized-California-Disaster-Team-Undertakes-First-Task/1$6448)

28. *October 28, WSOCTV Charlotte* – (North Carolina) **Crews practice emergency drills before light rail opening.** On Sunday, Charlotte firefighters, police and other emergency responders drilled a response to the derailment of a light-rail train after an imagined explosion at a chemical plant. Though not the first time Charlotte Area Transit System officials put together a drill of this sort, it was the first time that emergency responders had to deal with a light-rail track above ground. A representative from the Charlotte Fire Department said, "If you can get out into an environment like this ahead of time, you're going to have the confidence factor, you're going to understand how your equipment works, more importantly, how your people perform." After the crews finished with the drill, each department got together to discuss what worked and what did not. CATS officials said they began planning this drill three years ago. The emergency drills are required by the federal transit administration.

Source: <http://www.wsocvtv.com/news/14442028/detail.html>

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## **Information Technology**

29. *October 26, Computerworld* – (National) **Real reveals six new bugs in RealPlayer.** For the second time in eight days, new critical vulnerabilities that could be used to hijack machines have been fingered in the RealPlayer media player. The patched editions released October 19, for Windows, however, are not vulnerable to the half-dozen bugs, RealNetworks Inc. said. After revealing that RealPlayer included a serious flaw that had been exploited by hackers who compromised an ad server owned by 24/7 Real Media to spread malware to visitors of legitimate, trusted Web sites, Seattle-based RealNetworks Thursday posted information about the latest vulnerabilities. All six bugs involve RealPlayer's problems parsing file formats and could be exploited by hackers who first crafted malicious files, then duped users into either opening those rigged files when they received them as e-mail attachments or visiting an attack site that hosted such files. Among the file types: .mov, .mp3, .rm, SMIL, .swf, .ram and .pl.  
Source:  
[http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=security&articleId=9044309&taxonomyId=17&intsrc=kc\\_top](http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=security&articleId=9044309&taxonomyId=17&intsrc=kc_top)
30. *October 26, Computerworld* – (National) **'We're not scared' of Storm, say researchers.** Reports that security researchers are running scared from hackers responsible for the Storm Trojan are overblown, say some of the people who have dug into the complex malware. Earlier this week, a member of IBM's Internet Security Systems Inc. said that Storm, a multifaceted Trojan Horse that has been used to gather a substantial army of bots (or compromised computers), strikes back using distributed denial-of-service (DDoS) attacks when it senses probes of its command-and-control network. These attacks, he said, have researchers spooked. But several researchers took issue with the characterization at Interop New York last Tuesday. They also confirmed, however, that they knew Storm had launched DDoS attacks, and as the IBM representative pointed out, the Trojan has an automated early warning system that sniffs probes made of the botnet. "Storm understands any attempt to understand it, then notifies the bot controller," said one researcher. "It seems to recognize a threat after several different attempts to probe the bot." The tactic is not new, but Storm has taken it to higher levels of automation, he said.  
Source:  
[http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=security&articleId=9044304&taxonomyId=17&intsrc=kc\\_top](http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=security&articleId=9044304&taxonomyId=17&intsrc=kc_top)
31. *October 26, Computerworld* – (National) **Russian PDF attacks surge; Microsoft takes blame.** On October 25, Microsoft Corp. updated a security advisory that addressed a broad flaw in Windows and said it is working around the clock to fix the bug. But it may be too late for many. Security researchers said hackers had amped up attacks using malicious PDF files that exploit the vulnerability. Helsinki, Finland-based F-Secure Corp. called the surge in spam carrying the rigged PDF documents "massive" and said the run is ongoing. The director of response at iSight Partners Inc., confirmed that the number of messages hitting mailboxes with rogue PDFs soared today. "PDF exploits are ramping up just in time for the weekend," he said in an e-mail. The attacks, which began Tuesday, exploit bugs in the Windows versions of Adobe Systems Inc.'s Reader and Acrobat software; Adobe patched the newest editions of those programs Monday, but has not yet updated older variants. (See next article.) According to some researchers, the infamous

Russian Business Network (RBN), a collective of cybercriminals, is behind the PDF assault.

Source:

[http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=security&articleId=9044310&taxonomyId=17&intsrc=kc\\_top](http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=security&articleId=9044310&taxonomyId=17&intsrc=kc_top)

### Internet Alert Dashboard

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at [soc@us-cert.gov](mailto:soc@us-cert.gov) or visit their Website: [www.us-cert.gov](http://www.us-cert.gov).

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <https://www.it-isac.org/>.

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## Communications Sector

32. *October 29, The New York Times News Service* – (National) **Apartment dwellers may get cable relief.** The Federal Communications Commission, hoping to reduce the spiraling cost of cable television, is preparing to strike down thousands of contracts this week that shut out competitors by giving individual cable companies exclusive rights to provide service to an apartment building, the agency's chairman says. The new rule could open markets across the country to competition. It would be a huge victory for Verizon Communications and AT&T, which have challenged the cable industry by offering video services. The two phone companies have lobbied aggressively for the provision. They have been supported in their fight by consumer groups, satellite television companies and small rivals to the big cable providers. Commission officials and consumer groups said the rule could significantly lower cable prices for millions of subscribers who live in apartment buildings and have had no choice in selecting a company for paid television. Government and private studies show that when a second cable company enters a market, prices can drop as much as 30 percent.

Source: [http://www.chicagotribune.com/business/chi-cable\\_monoct29,0,7719736,print.story](http://www.chicagotribune.com/business/chi-cable_monoct29,0,7719736,print.story)

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## Commercial Facilities Sector

33. *October 29, Wichita Eagle* – (Kansas) **Wal-Mart evacuated; 17 go to hospital.** Seventeen people were taken to a hospital Sunday night after an unknown agent caused shoppers and employees inside a Wal-Mart in Derby, Kansas to become nauseated and have difficulty breathing. The Derby Fire Chief said the building was evacuated shortly before 7 p.m. and the Sedgwick County Hazardous Materials and Emergency Management teams were called in. Of the 17 people taken to the hospital, he said, all had suffered respiratory problems and at least one also had cardiovascular complications.

Terrorism is not suspected.

Source: <http://www.kansas.com/news/local/story/213056.html>

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## **National Monuments & Icons Sector**

34. *October 28, CBS 2, Los Angeles, California and The Associated Press* – (California) **Ranch Fire now 97 percent contained.** In California, the Ranch Fire, which has burned 57,401 acres, mainly in the Los Padres National Forest, is 97 percent contained, according to National Forest Service Officials. Full containment is not expected for over a week, as crews labor to contain a finger of fire that stretched away from the main section of blaze. Officials also reported that the Angeles and Los Padres national forests remain closed to the public because of high fire dangers.  
Source: [http://cbs2.com/topstories/local\\_story\\_301155538.html](http://cbs2.com/topstories/local_story_301155538.html)

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## **Dams Sector**

35. *October 29, The Times-Picayune* – (Louisiana) **East bank river levees to be raised.** One to three feet will be added to the levee that runs between the Jefferson-St. Charles parish line in Kenner and the south side of Audubon Park in New Orleans. The additional height will add 12 to 18 inches of freeboard, which is the extra protection added above floodstage. In addition, plans are also being drawn to build floodwalls on the grounds of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineer's Leake Avenue complex. The floodwall and freeboard jobs are Mississippi River levee projects that have been on the books for years but were never built because of financial constraints, said the assistant chief of operations for the corps' New Orleans district. The construction is scheduled for late 2008.  
Source: <http://www.nola.com/news/t-p/metro/index.ssf?/base/news-25/1193636371313190.xml&coll=1>
36. *October 28, KHQA TV Channel 7* – (Illinois) **Lock and Dam 21 in critical need of improvements.** Lock and Dam 21 on the Upper Mississippi River near Quincy, Illinois, has outlived its design life of 50 years. A representative from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has said that the dam “needs a lot of work mechanically, electrically, structurally to keep it reliable for the future.” Problems with the facility would cause the entire shipping system to stop until the problem is fixed. A water resources development act is waiting to be signed by President Bush that would provide funding for projects such as this.  
Source: [http://www.khqa.com/news/news\\_story.aspx?id=60276](http://www.khqa.com/news/news_story.aspx?id=60276)

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